SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5244** TRICKY **B5244**

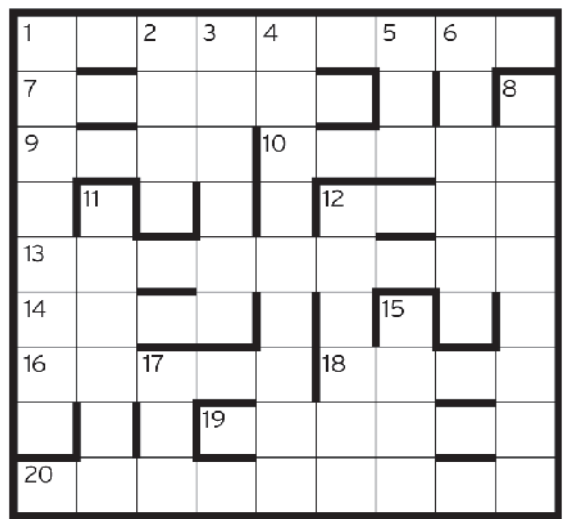
	3	9				2		6
1	6			9	5		8	4
		8	4				7	
								9
	2	4		3	7		1	
					8		4	
					6			2
7	8						6	
9	4					1		

								7
						5	4	
6		1					3	
	6	4			5			
			2	9				
8	7			3				
	3			8				6
2	4	6			7			5
				5	3		7	

To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD



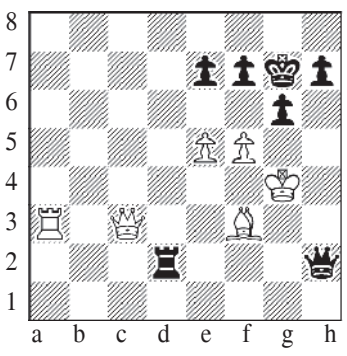
ACROSS

1 Prohibited (9)
7 City in Pakistan (6)
9 Species of wild goat (4)
10 Horrify (5)
12 Pith helmet (4)
13 Infer cash (anag.) (9)
14 Breathing organ (4)
16 Improvise (2-3)
18 Brass instrument (4)
19 Plant disease (6)
20 Southern US state (9)

DOWN

1 Nonsense (8)
2 _ Seehorn, actress (4)
3 Pugilism (6)
4 Easily angered (9)
5 Slight decline (3)
6 Pass by, like time (6)
8 Estrange (8)
11 Grievance (6)
12 In other words (4,2)
15 Drinking vessels (4)
17 _ Deighton, author (3)

CHESS



BLACK TO PLAY

HINT: FORCE CHECKMATE.

Solution:

1. ... h5ch! 2. Kg5 Qg3ch 3. Bg4 Qxg4 mate. [Moiseenko-Nepomniachtchi,'14]

TARGET

A	E	A
P	Y	R
T	E	R

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 13;

Very good 20;

Excellent 26 (or more).

Solution tomorrow.

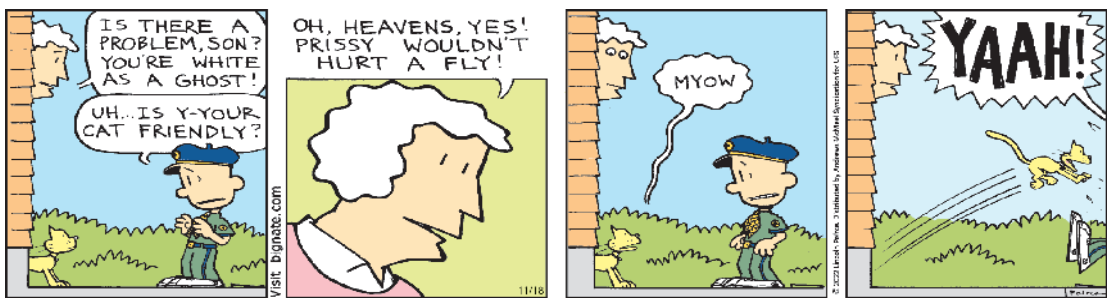
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

PREMIERED

deep deeper drip empire epee impede peer peered perm permed pied pier premed premier premiere PREMIERED pride pried prim prime primed primer ripe riper

THE METRO FUNNIES

BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE


IS THERE A PROBLEM, SON? YOU'RE WHITE AS A GHOST!
UH... IS Y-YOUR CAT FRIENDLY?
OH, HEAVENS, YES! PRISSY WOULDN'T HURT A FLY!
MYOW
YAAH!
Visit bignate.com
11/18

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART

10:00 AND ALL IS WELL!
IT'S 9:00 AND NO, IT'S NOT!
10:00 AND YES, IT IS!
9:00 AND NO, THERE'S DANGER AT EVERY CORNER!
YOU JUST CAN'T TRUST THE MEDIA THESE DAYS...
JohnHartStudios.com
11-18-25

BABY BLUES

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	05:38pm	05:06pm	05:44pm	05:04pm	05:11pm	05:40pm
Sunrise	06:45am	06:39am	06:50am	06:31am	06:47am	06:56am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow			Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook	Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	12	27	Mostly Cloudy	58	12	27	Mostly Sunny	12	27	Sunny
Hyderabad	12	31	Sunny	33	12	31	Sunny	13	31	Sunny
Islamabad	10	25	Sunny	51	11	25	Sunny	10	24	Sunny
Lahore	12	27	Mostly Sunny	53	12	27	Sunny	12	26	Sunny
Multan	12	27	Partly Cloudy	55	12	27	Partly Cloudy	12	27	Sunny
Peshawar	10	24	Sunny	59	10	24	Sunny	10	24	Sunny
Quetta	7	22	Partly Cloudy	25	5	20	Partly Cloudy	4	19	Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD

SIAMANGS

(SIAMANGS: SEE-uh-mangs: Black gibbons of Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula.)

Average mark 12 words
Time limit 30 minutes

Can you find 22 or more words in SIAMANGS?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD — DRUPES

drupe	spur
dues	suer
dupe	super
duper	sure
rude	
ruse	
used	
user	
prude	
pure	
purse	
sped	
spud	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

Incessant
Narrow
Enlists
Lyre
Vet
Rosters
Eel
Drum
Nappies
Oregon
Amazement.

DOWN

Influenza
Navy
Ernest
Solitaire
Ass
Notes
Testament
Redeem
Realm
Upon
Pea.

METRO EVENTS

PLAY

Hansel and Gretel, a play directed by Uzma Sabeen, is staged as part of the World Culture Festival, at Auditorium 2, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 11am.

SESSION

A session on 'Basics of Entrepreneurship, Tech-Deadliness For Start up Innovation' is organised at Room: AC-109, Iqra University, Airport campus, at 12pm.

SEMINAR

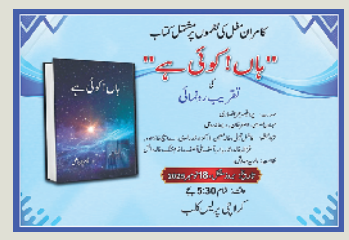
A seminar on 'Sustainable Food System and Nutrition' at Dr Zaki Hassan Auditorium, Sohail University, at 11am.

FILM SCREENING

'Asia-Pacific Shorts Showcase' is held as part of the World Culture Festival, at Auditorium 2, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 4pm.

BOOK LAUNCH

Haan! Koi Hai, a poetry collection by Kamran Mughal, is launched at Karachi Press Club, at 5:30pm.



HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

**** Keep your pockets open, because money, favors and practical assistance might come your way today. You can benefit from the wealth and resources of someone else. This is also a passionate day for romantic love. (Not too shabby.) Tonight: Check banking details.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

**** This is a great day to schmooze with partners and close friends. Others will enjoy being in your presence. This is because you easily radiate warm emotions when dealing with everyone today. Nevertheless, be prepared to compromise a bit and to "go along to get along." Tonight: Listen.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

**** This is the classic day for a work-related romance or a flirtation. Meanwhile, it's an excellent time to improve your workstation, whether you work at home or in another location. Something might occur today that gives you a financial boost -- a raise or better equipment. Yay! Tonight: Work.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

***** It's a fun-loving day! Make an effort to get out and socialize, because you feel cheerful and chatty. (You're interested in over-the-fence gossip.) This is a great day to party! Enjoy sports events, the entertainment world and fun activities with kids -- any pleasant diversion that appeals to you. Tonight: Schmooze with others.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

**** This is an excellent day to entertain at home. It's also a great day to shop for something that will help you make where you live look more attractive. (Then you can show off what you've done to visiting family and friends.) Bottom line: This is a warm, friendly day! Tonight: Cocoon at home.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

**** Writers and those of you in sales, marketing, teaching or acting will excel today, because your communication skills are tops! This is mostly due to the fact that you're in an optimistic, positive frame of mind, and your words will reflect this. Enjoy the beauty of your daily surroundings. Tonight: Discussions.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

**** Save your receipts (and the box) today if shopping, because you might go overboard. This is because your appreciation of beauty is strong, which could tempt you to spend more money than you originally intended to. Actually, it's easy to be overindulgent today. (And you do love beautiful things.) Tonight: Check your money.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

***** This is a fabulous day! The Moon is lined up with fair Venus in your sign, making you charming, attractive and irresistible to others. Not only will casual conversations be friendly and upbeat, your interactions with certain people might plant some seeds that will flourish in a romantic way. Tonight: You're in charge.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

**** Solitude in beautiful surroundings will appeal to you today. However, with fiery Mars in your sign, pumping you with energy, you'll be attracted to outdoor sports and physical activities as well. Today also favors secret love affairs. Tonight: Seek solitude.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

**** The Moon, Venus, the Sun and retrograde Mercury are gathered in your House of Friendships, promoting warm relations with friends, groups and organizations, especially with faces from the past you haven't seen in a while. Things are so chummy, a platonic friendship could turn romantic. Tonight: Friendships.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

**** "You look mahvelous dahling!" Today four planets are at the top of your chart calling attention to you. Some will know personal details about your private life. However, you make a charming impression on everyone, which is why you're enjoying this popular day. Tonight: You're admired!

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

***** Grab every opportunity to travel, because you want to expand your world in some way. Travel, film, books, discussions with different and unusual people, specific training and a chance to explore your own surroundings are excellent choices for you today. Explore! Tonight: Learn something new.

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

Insurance policy

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 7 4
♥ Q 10 9
♦ A K J 5 4
♣ A 8

WEST
♠ A Q J 9 2
♥ 5 4
♦ 9 7
♣ K Q J 6

EAST
♠ 10 5
♥ 6 3
♦ Q 10 2
♣ 10 9 7 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ K 6 3
♥ A K J 8 7 2
♦ 8 6 3
♣ 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	

Opening lead -- king of clubs.

In many deals, it is more dangerous for declarer to have one defender on lead rather than the other. In such cases, declarer should try to organize the play so that the dangerous opponent cannot gain the lead. Today's deal features an unusual application of this strategy.

West led the king of clubs against four hearts, and South saw immediately that there was a possibility he could lose three spades and a diamond. Given the bidding, it was highly likely that West had the ace of spades, so it was imperative to keep East from gaining the lead and returning a spade through the king.

The most obvious way to avoid three spade losers was to establish dummy's diamond suit, but if East had the guarded diamond queen, declarer might lose four tricks before the diamonds could be utilized.

After pondering his options, South found the solution: He allowed West's king of clubs to hold the first trick! West could do no better than lead another club to dummy's ace at trick two, on which South discarded a diamond. Two rounds of trump were followed by the A-K of diamonds and a diamond ruff, establishing dummy's two remaining diamonds. Declarer then crossed to dummy with a trump and discarded two spades on the J-5 of diamonds to finish with an overtrick.

Note that the same line of play would succeed against a 3-1 trump break, declarer simply ruffing the third diamond high before crossing to dummy with a trump to cash the established diamonds.

By ducking the opening club lead, South substantially increased his chances of making the contract. In effect, he substituted a nonexistent club loser for a potential diamond loser. It was an application of the avoidance principle carried to an extreme.

Tomorrow: Top-notch defense.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5243

3	1	4	2	9	7	5	6	8
5	7	8	1	6	3	2	9	4
2	6	9	8	4	5	3	1	7
1	4	5	6	2	9	8	7	3
6	8	7	3	1	4	9	2	5
9	2	3	7	5	8	1	4	6
4	3	2	9	8	6	7	5	1
8	5	1	4	7	2	6	3	9
7	9	6	5	3	1	4	8	2

Tricky — B5243

5	8	2	4	3	1	6	7	9
3	9	4	6	7	8	5	1	2
1	7	6	5	9	2	8	4	3
9	4	7	3	8	5	1	2	6
2	1	8	7	6	4	9	3	5
6	5	3	1	2	9	4	8	7
4	2	1	9	5	7	3	6	8
8	6	9	2	4	3	7	5	1
7	3	5	8	1	6	2	9	4